

CC MONTHLY

The official newsletter of Charity Crossing



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Volunteer, Partner, & Donor Appreciation Event

Jay Muthukamatchi

On March 4, Charity Crossing held its 6th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Dignitaries including Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, NCC Executive Matt Meyer, Delaware DHSS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Daniel Walker, NCC Public Safety Directory Vaughn Bond Jr., Delaware State Senator Stephanie Hansen, Delaware State Representative Larry Lambert, Delaware State Representative Michael F. Smith, and Delaware State Representative Sherry Walker, were among the attendees.

Around 250 volunteers, partners, and donors, along with their families, attended this memorable event.



Interviews With Dignitaries

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

At this year's Charity Crossing Volunteer Appreciation Event, two members of the CC Digital Communications Team (Jeshen Kanan and Aratrika Ghosh) conducted interviews with a few of the dignitaries. Below is a compilation of the interview questions with those dignitaries.

What are three words you would use to describe Charity Crossing?

Major John Treadwell: "Outstanding, selfless, and humbled."

Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long: "I think the title Charity Crossing starts with the word charity, hope, and faith. I find those things very inspiring, such as faith in humanity and finding good health and environment and charity, volunteerism, and giving. And hope. You, as volunteers, give our community, whether a frail elder or a young child or when you brought food to Legislative Hall and goods to ship to Ukraine, that was hope. So faith, hope, and charity."

How would you say Charity Crossing has impacted Delaware communities?

Councilman David Tacket: "Charity Crossing has filled an itch that has been a huge void in our state, as well as our community, for a very long time. And the way they are able to administer their services to our community, and they reach down to the ones that need it the most, and they're there faithfully every week."

State Senator Stephanie Hansen: "I think they brought hope to a lot of people who have often felt hopeless and that otherwise would have been very much left behind and on their own. Particularly during the last few years of COVID, but in general."

When it comes to leadership and teamwork, what are the best qualities to have?

State Representative Sherry Dorsey Walker: "To be a great leader, and teamwork, it takes understanding. It takes a willingness to work with others and it takes a desire to want to serve other people and to make a difference in the lives of individuals with whom we come in contact."



Interviews With Dignitaries

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

State Representative Michael Smith: “When it comes to leadership and leadership qualities, I think the best thing you can do is lead from the top and lead from the bottom. But you never do anything you’re not willing to do yourself, never ask someone to do something you’re not willing to do yourself, give it all your effort, have a great attitude, and make sure that no matter what, you’re there to support and help people. At the end of the day, if you’re not doing something for others, you’re not making an impact at all.”

What advice do you have for future generations of volunteers?

Barclays Bank Chief Information Officer Anand Dhelia: “I think the advice I would give is to focus on the act of giving, as opposed to making it part of a checklist to see that I have to serve so many hours. I think if you truly give for the sake of giving, I think it will benefit you much more in the long run.”

Major John Treadwell: “Help. Help, be willing to pitch in, right? So unfortunately, technology, as much as it’s helped us, it’s hurt us. We see kids all the time and people rag, “Oh, they’re two, and they can operate an iPhone.” We all can give in some shape, form, or fashion, which is what’s so great about Charity Crossing. They start a culture of giving from the very young, all the way up to the most seasoned citizens in a community. That’s what we need, so my advice to young people is get involved, be a part of it. Really, the world, the nation’s future, it’s in your hands. We can do, you guys can do, whatever it is that you want to do. We just need you to be involved, be engaged.”

Thank you to all of the above dignitaries for taking the time to conduct the interview! The full interview transcripts will be available by the end of April 2023.

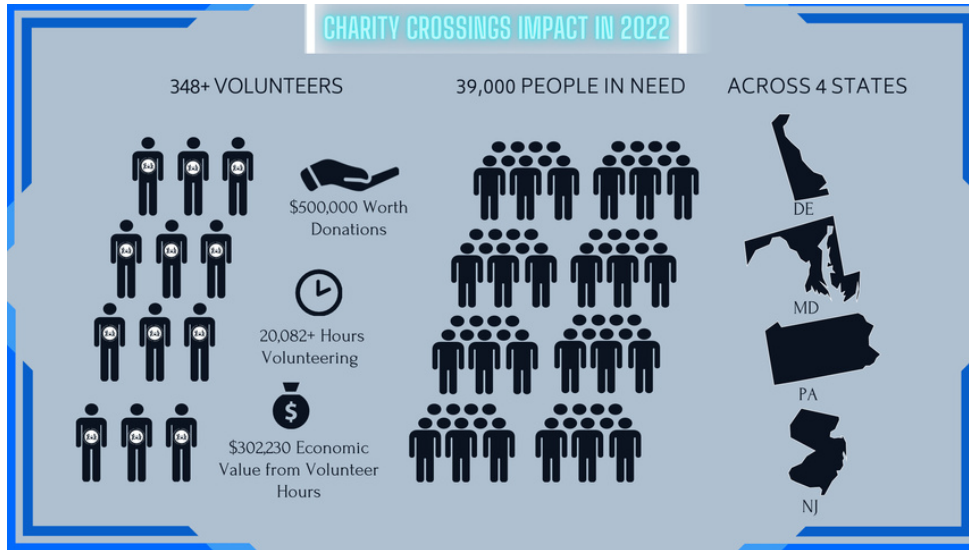


Charity Crossing 2022 Year In Numbers

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School

At the start of 2022, post-COVID, a lot of communities around us were struggling with increasing living costs amid economic uncertainty. While overall, donations were exceeding, or at the very least, reaching, pre-pandemic levels, volunteer activity was lower than pre-pandemic.

Charity Crossing rose to the challenge and was resolute in making our communities better than ever before. During 2022, you incredible volunteers stepped up and led efforts in making our communities stronger.



CHARITY CROSSINGS NUMBERS FOR THE YEAR



NUMBERS FOR 2022 VS 2021



Volunteer Of The Year

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School

Chandra Dontaraju, Vaishali Aliya Ameen, Krishna Prasadh (KP), and Siddharth Sharma won the Volunteer of the Year awards because of their amazing work. Siddharth set a record as the first youth to win the Volunteer of the Year, but he certainly won't be the last.



CHARITY CROSSING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT



CHANDRA DONTARAJU



VAISHALI AMEEN



KRISHNA PRASADH



SIDDHARTH SHARMA

Excellence In Volunteering Award

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School

The Excellence in Volunteering award is given to volunteers who exhibit high engagement, passion, commitment, affirm the value of volunteering, and contribute to Charity Crossing's mission. The CC team hopes to give out even more medals next year.



Bronze Award

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School



CHARITY CROSSING BRONZE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Aarti Daga

Aashay Gupte

Anand Chandolu

Anicha Dinakaran

Anitha Ravikumar

Arun Daga

Ashwant Rajesh

Ayushi Ghosh

Balachandar Krishnaraj

Ms. Caren Turner

Chandar Malayappan

Chetna Sivamurthy

Daiwik Kasira

Deepa Ponniah

Faisal Ameen

Gifti Boateng

Gopinath Srinivasan

Hari Kuppuswamy

Harminder Parmar

Janardhan Baddam

Karthika Jagadeesan

Kavinitha Venkatesh

Keshav Sharma

Kirti Daga

Naga H. R. Kammili

Raghuma Vadlamudi

Rahima Tukur

Ranjit Rathinam

Ruth Taylor

Saathvik Swamy

Sai Purnima Kammili

Sai Suram

Samhitha Vallury

Saroja Vallury

Sheshi Kasira

Shravan Subramaniam

Sumalata Gudipati

Sumitha Ramasamy

Sunil Chowdavarapu

Tiya Balachandar

Venkatesh Udayavar

Vernon Robinson Jr.

Virginia Fornadale

Silver Award

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School



Anoushka Rajesh

Aratrika Ghosh

Asrita Chandolu

Baranidharan Radhakrishnan

Glenn Xavier

Ininder Parmar

Manish Dinakaran

Saashwath Swamy

Sahil Langote

Saivikas Gudipati

Sakthi RaghupathiRaghavan

Shlok Subramaniam

Shrinikha Kalaivanan

Sriramachandra Kanimeni

Vedhasshya Kalaivanan

Vihaan Baisani

Gold Award

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School



Aashraya C. Kankanala
 Aashrita Chowdavarapu
 Aasritha C. Kankanala
 Abhijeet S. Parmar
 Abhinav Penaganti
 Abhinav S. Parmar
 Adil Ameen
 Akash Kathiravan
 Ananya Prabhakar
 Aneesh Chowdavarapu
 Anirudh Singh
 Arya Gopinath
 Chandra Dontaraju
 Fatima A. Mohammed
 Gautham Chandar

Habiba H. Mohammed
 Harsha Janaki
 Iqra Ameen
 Jay Muthukamatchi
 Karthik Karpurapu
 Lalit Karpurapu
 Manushri Gupta
 Nishna R Baddam
 Ovia Gopinath
 Rahul Rathinam
 Rajasekhar Karpurapu
 Raksha Prabhakar
 Rishil Garlapati
 Ritika Rathinam
 Rohan Sivva

Ruchi Daga
 Rupali Langote
 Saanvi R Baddam
 Sahasra Chandolu
 Sai Anumitha Kammili
 Siddharth Sharma
 Srinitya Pamulapati
 Sriramanjusahas Gudipati
 Tanuj Dontaraju
 Vaishali Ameen
 Vaishnavi Sakthi
 Varshini Sakthi
 Venmalrani Jayakumar
 Yashitha Baisani
 Yuva Gopinath

Photo Collage - March 4th, 2023

Aratrika Ghosh



Thoughts On The Event

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School

The 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Event was "the best event yet," said one volunteer. Another volunteer said, "the event was heartwarming and beautiful." Below are some quotes from people at the event.

Venky Udayavar: "It was so heartwarming to see the youngest volunteer at age 7 to the oldest volunteer at 76 all walking up the stage to get their award for spending their precious personal time to serve the community. Apart from serving ... people and helping ... mother nature, I personally [think] as a parent [that] taking so many screen hours from the kids and making them grow [instills] responsibility and [makes them] healthier and happier. Thanks, Jay, for making us part of this great initiative[,] where we not only serve the community and country[,] but shape the souls and minds of the next generation."

Vaishali Aliya Ameen: "Another event that was well-attended, successful, and professional. The event was very well-organized, [and] Sid and Jeshen did an excellent job to keep everyone involved and entertained. It is a must to praise the National Anthem Committee, the Merchandise Committee, the Decorations Committee, the Backstage Committee, the Check-In Committee, the Photos and Video Committee, the MCs, and the MCs who presented the awards. Congratulations to everyone who was involved."

A Volunteer: "Such a fantastic event yesterday and it was my first year attending - super impressive! The feeling of inclusion and service and gratitude was omnipresent. Congrats to all the award recipients and to the super team of volunteers that made this event possible, and are relentlessly contributing to the cause of "Educating The Heart" everyday."



Thank You's From Charity Crossing

Sid Sharma, 8th Grader, Alfred G. Waters Middle School

Charity Crossing wants to thank all of the companies that helped provide us with resources for this event.



100 Four Seasons Pkwy, Newark, DE 19702



SAFeway

2400 Peoples Plaza Newark, DE 19702



27 Christiana Rd, New Castle, DE 19720



ITALIAN KITCHEN

1279 New Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713



820 Peoples Plaza, Newark, DE 19702



1253 Churchmans Rd, Newark, DE 19713



114 Hockessin Dr, Hockessin, DE 19707



900 Prides Crossing, Newark, DE 19713

Volunteer Appreciation Event Feedback Form

By Aratrika Ghosh

Below is a short google form to collect feedback on this year's event and better prepare for next year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete it! <https://forms.gle/1eiwLi4Uu7aVx3sg8>



2023 Autism Acceptance & Understanding Walk

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

Six years ago, Charity Crossing made a promise to a young father that we would do an annual Autism Acceptance & Understanding Walk to benefit the autism community. Even through the pandemic, CC was able to hold the walk and increase understanding and acceptance in the general public for the autism community. This year, CC will be holding a Delaware Autism Walk and a Pennsylvania Walk on April 22, 2023 at Glasgow Park (DE) and Wilson Farm Park (PA) from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., along with an option for participants to walk virtually. There are no fees to participate in the walk, however people can make a donation through the Charity Crossing website. Funds raised from the DE walk will benefit an area of Glasgow Park meant to entertain children with autism and funds from the PA walk will benefit the Comprehensive Learning Center, a non-profit that focuses on maximizing the potential of individuals with autism.

Every year, CC strives to make an impact. That's why each year's event is led by youth leaders, the leaders of the future. They are not only learning about the autism community, but also coming up with great ideas to support the autism community. This year's youth leads are Sid, Rohit, Aratrika, and Jeshen (from DE) and Glenn and Shriya (from PA).

Help CC make a difference by attending the 6th Annual Autism Understanding & Acceptance Walk on Saturday, April 22, this year. More information about the walk, along with the registration links can be found in the flyers below.



Delware Flyer

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

WALK FOR A CAUSE

Charity Crossing's 6th Annual Walk For Autism Understanding & Acceptance



DATE: APRIL 22, 2023 TIME: 10 A.M. TO 12 P.M.
GLASGOW PARK, PAVILION 5 (NEAR RED BARN)
2275 PULASKI HWY, NEWARK, DE 19702

Toy raffle for families with special need.



It is free to participate in the walk.

Registration & Donation Link:

<https://bit.ly/a5kwalk23>

Proceeds Will Benefit The Autism Play Area In Glasgow Park



Pennsylvania Flyer

Jeshen Kanan, 9th Grader, The Charter School of Wilmington

WALK FOR A CAUSE

Charity Crossing's 6th Annual Walk
For Autism Understanding & Acceptance



DATE: APRIL 22, 2023

TIME: 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

PICNIC PAVILION | WILSON FARM PARK

500 LEE RD, WAYNE, PA 19087

Landmark: Next to Basketball and Volleyball Courts

Toy raffle for families with special need.



It is free to participate in the walk.

Registration & Donation Link:

<https://bit.ly/a5kwalk23>

Proceeds Will Benefit The Comprehensive Learning Center (CLC)



Fundraiser Opportunities

Amazon Smile

Charity Crossing is a member of the Amazon Smile program, a great way for you to raise funds for Charity Crossing. To start, Amazon Smile has the same products as the Amazon that you normally shop on, except this site donates a part of the money from your purchase to Charity Crossing. No extra cost to you! Please go to smile.amazon.com or use the regular Prime app on your phone to sign up first.

Matching Donations

As Charity Crossing is a non-profit organization, a big part of the reason we can constantly serve the community is due to help from corporate donors. An amazing example of this occurred in February, when JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and other employers matched employee donations and helped raise \$11,713 for Charity Crossing's vehicle fundraiser. We encourage you to check with your employer to see if similar programs are available!

Dollars-for-Doers / Volunteers Grant Program

Dollars-for-Doers is a corporate program that distributes monetary grants to non-profit organizations where its employees volunteer. They are also known as volunteer grants or dollars-for-hours programs. The process of receiving one of these grants is essentially the same. First, the employee must volunteer with a nonprofit. They then request a grant from their employer, who will verify the number of hours performed, then send a check to the non-profit organization. Some companies offering dollars-for-doers or volunteer grants include Bank of America, TD Bank, Aetna, Microsoft, and many more. Please check with your employer.

Birthday Fundraisers

Organizing a birthday fundraiser using social media is a great way to raise funds for Charity Crossing. By doing so, you will enjoy a contented feeling, knowing that you played a part in helping those in need on your special day. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc., offer features that allow you to raise funds for Charity Crossing. Please check them out.

For more information, please contact info@charitycrossing.org

